

Freedom Watch

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Bagram, Afghanistan

U.S. works to build Afghani

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — As U.S. and Afghan leaders continue to work together to re-build Afghanistan, there is one main factor that plays a major part in the rebuilding process — money.

To help boost the economic infrastructure from the inside out, the U.S. government is going to begin using the Afghani, the devalued Afghan currency.

“There are approximately 49 Afghanis to every U.S. dollar,” said Capt. Monica Sneed, commander, A Detachment, 126th Finance Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C. “For this reason, the Afghan people have very little confidence in their own currency and prefer U.S. dollars.”

To fix this problem, U.S. Civil Affairs and finance personnel will begin to pay Afghan vendors, claims and contracts in Afghanis starting as early as next week.

“We plan on making the transition slowly through phases so the Afghan people can get used to the change,” said Sneed. “We will start to use Afghanis to pay vendors for business transactions such as buying unit supplies and for small legal claims. By the end of July we will advance to the final phase which is contracted projects.”

Even though the transfer of U.S. currency into Afghanis is a big step, it is not the final one.

“Eventually, vendors and contractors will no longer be paid in currency at all,” said Sneed. “Projects like large hundred-thousand-dollar contracts will be paid in the form of checks from the Da Afghanistan Bank in Kabul.”

Sneed said the reason for this is two-fold.

“The Afghan people need to build confi-



Photo by Pfc. Terri Rorke

Train as you fight...

During some down time, paratroopers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. practice battle drills. The training is oriented towards the region here, said platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Marciano, B Co., 2-505 PIR.

New Zealand announces contributions in Afghanistan

By Spc. Wes Landrum
CJTF-180 PAO

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A team from New Zealand, led by ambassador Niels Holm, visited Headquarters Coalition Joint Task Force-180 to coordinate that nation's consideration to contribute to a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark announced the nation might contribute to a PRT.

“Our special forces participated in fighting in Afghanistan for a full year,” said Clark. “It is now time to contribute to the reconstruction of Afghanistan.”

According to officials, the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan has

been working with a number of nations to establish security and rebuild society across Afghanistan. A significant portion of this effort, officials said, is through the deployment of PRTs.

PRTs are made up of small military units who include civil-military operations specialists, a special operations forces element and an information operations group. The teams involve anywhere from 50 to 100 people.

According to officials, PRTs are designed to assist the provisional government, under President Karzai, expand its influence outside Kabul. They said the focus is to make the security environment better and to promote the reconstruction effort, while moni-

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Details emerge on Lynch convoy ambush

WASHINGTON — New details are emerging of the battle that led to the Iraqi capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch and her comrades.

Mechanics from the 507th Maintenance Company — rather than trained front line soldiers — fought a fierce 90-minute firefight against Iraqi paramilitary and regular forces after getting lost in the Iraqi desert.

They tell of coming under fire from soldiers on rooftops near Nasiriya as their vehicles were hit by rocket-propelled grenades and some weapons were clogged with sand.

"It was Mogadishu," said one military source familiar with the reports from survivors, referring to a 1993 incident in the Somali capital when 18 U.S. Army Rangers were killed by a Somali mob while attempting to rescue comrades from two downed helicopters.



A U.S. soldier guards blindfolded Iraqis who were rounded up in a raid conducted early Tuesday in Baghdad.

Bremer: Top Baath Party loyalists detained

BAGHDAD — Iraq's U.S. civil administrator announced the arrest of senior members of the deposed Saddam Hussein regime Tuesday, as coalition forces rounded up hundreds of people in a wide-ranging crackdown on paramilitary fighters and Baath Party loyalists.

Paul Bremer said coalition military and

Iraqi police forces have arrested senior members of Saddam's regime during the past week, as well as others who "are trying to derail the reconstruction and security of this country.

"We arrested the former chairman of the Baath Party in Karbala, who had held two American Apache pilots during the war. And yesterday we arrested the former secret police chief in Kirkuk," he said. "Both these men are being detained by coalition authorities today."

U.S. Central Command said 400 people were arrested in Operation Desert Scorpion, the largest military deployment since the height of the war in early April. Half of those arrested were released, according to a Central Command statement.

No breakthrough in Abbas talks with Palestinian factions

GAZA CITY — Meetings between Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and representatives of several Palestinian factions to discuss a cease-fire with Israel broke up late Tuesday with no breakthrough, Palestinian officials said.

Representatives of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said they needed more time to consider their next move, and reiterated that before any cessation in their attacks against Israelis, Israel must halt its assassination program of militant leaders.

Contacts will be maintained between the Palestinian Authority and the militant groups, but no new meetings were scheduled, the officials said.

Microsoft takes spam fight to court

SEATTLE — Software giant Microsoft went to court in the United States and the United Kingdom on Tuesday, filing 15 lawsuits attacking the unsolicited e-mail known as spam.

"We recognize that spam is a global problem," Microsoft general counsel Brad Smith told Reuters. "We are ramping up our efforts to combat spam around the world."

As marketers have increased their barrage of unwanted e-mails, the war on spam

is heating up. Several antispy measures are making their way through Congress, and other firms are also taking spammers to court. The number of people installing e-mail filters is also on the rise.

Bishop charged in fatal hit-and-run

PHOENIX — Two weeks after signing a deal to avoid charges stemming from his handling of a sex abuse scandal, the Roman Catholic bishop of Phoenix has been charged with leaving the scene of a fatal weekend accident, prosecutors said.

Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley announced the felony charge Tuesday against 67-year-old Bishop Thomas O'Brien.

"All I will say without commenting [on] the evidence is that I would not have brought charges if I did not believe there as a reasonable likelihood I could sustain this charge before a jury," Romley said.

"Our law here in Arizona, it requires that the driver have known that he injured an individual or a reasonable person should have known that he may have hit an individual," Romley said.

"And the facts and circumstances surrounding his conduct after the accident will go directly to that element of the charge," he added.

The charge the bishop faces is a class 4 felony, which carries a penalty ranging from probation to nearly four years in prison if convicted, according to the spokesman for the Maricopa county attorney's office.

Woman dies after amateur fight

SARASOTA, Fla. — A woman died Tuesday after being pummeled in an amateur boxing bout, and police opened an investigation into the fight.

"We are trying to determine the criminality of it," police spokesman Jay Frank said.

Stacy Young, 30, suffered swelling and bleeding in the brain during Saturday night's Toughman bout.

She was disconnected from life support Tuesday afternoon after being declared brain dead Monday night at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Bayfront spokesman Bill Hervey said.

2-505 adopts Dasht-e Rabat school

Story and photos by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

DASHT-E RABAT, Afghanistan — Children rummaging through backpacks is a common sight in the United States, but here most children carry their supplies in their arms.

Monday, children from Dasht-e Rabat School that was adopted by 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C. received school supplies. The school has approximately 500 students, about 350 boys and 150 girls.

Approximately 20 2-505 soldiers dropped off supplies including books, crayons, pens, coloring books, erasers, rulers, colored pencils, backpacks, socks and kites. They passed out more than 300 bags and left four boxes of supplies for the school to distribute.

The supplies came from donations from friends and family of Lt. Col. Micheal P. Lerario, commander, 2-505, in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Maryland.



Sgt. Dan Eastep, civil affairs sergeant, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), Riverdale, Md., helps pass out bags of school supplies to children from the Dasht-e Rabat school.

“They would write and ask what I needed. I didn’t really need anything. I’d go on missions and it really impressed me that the children would always ask for pens — they could ask for money or food, but all they’d ask for

was our pens so I told people to send pens and pencils and other school supplies,” said Lerario. “Finding a school to donate to

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Photo by Spc. Wes Landrum

New Zealand Ambassador Niels Holm watches a slide presentation during a Provincial Reconstruction Team briefing June 4 here.

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toring and assessing civil, political and military reform efforts through interaction with the community.

“A PRT is not a combat unit,” said Clark. “It provides a strengthened military observer, who also acts as a center for the fa-

cilitation of non-governmental organizations and other civilian contributions to reconstruction.”

She said a similar approach was successfully tried in the former republic of Yugoslavia.

The prime minister said the team would report back with recommendations on how New Zealand can best contribute to a PRT.

In addition to the PRT contribution, the prime minister said two non-commissioned officers will deploy and work with a British team in Kabul. Their mission will be to provide command and leadership training to the Afghan National Army in the capital for one year starting in September.

Clark said the contribution from New Zealand is intended to go hand in hand with the PRT contribution.

“The contribution is intended as a long-term investment in the establishment of a multi-ethnic Afghan National Army,” she said. “This new army is a key element in re-establishing security in Afghanistan.”

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dence in their currency and in their bank,” said Sneed. “The more we encourage the Afghan people to use their own currency and checks, the quicker they will build confidence in their money and feel more comfortable about using it.”

“We also run a big risk by paying Afghan contractors in dollars,” Sneed added. “Once these contractors are paid, they leave our gates with bags full of money, which is dangerous. At least if we pay them in checks, we can ensure the money reaches the intended recipient and not a thief or warlord.”

According to Sneed, building confidence in the Afghani will take some time, but the sooner the process gets started the better.

“One hundred years ago in the States, when the idea of using checks was fairly new, it took time for people to get adjusted,” said Sneed. “Now we use checks for transactions just like we use money. Soon, it will be the same way here.”

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seemed like the right thing to do. People are even asking about sending something every year.”

Lerario received approximately 25 boxes of supplies before distributing them to the school and even received two more after the team left for the school.

The supplies were divided into bags for the children three days prior to the distribution.

The soldiers who went out on the distribution were happy to help out.

“I felt like I was here for a purpose. These supplies are going to young (children) to help them with school. That is really important in this country because it is so poor,” said Sgt. 1st Class Linwood Bailey, platoon sergeant, D Company, 2-505.

According to Bailey, the soldiers said they felt the donation was worthwhile and something good for the children.

“It went very smoothly. I thought it would be longer and less organized, but the (children) were all well behaved,” he said.

“They looked like kids in a candy store,” said Bailey. “A couple were apprehensive, but overall they were very receptive.”

Another distribution is planned after more supplies come in.



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., brought school supplies to their adopted school in Dasht-e Rabat Monday.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “Star Trek: Nemesis.” After the Enterprise is diverted to the Romulan planet of Romulus, supposedly because they want to negotiate a truce, the Federation soon finds out the Romulans are planning an attack on Earth.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Guru.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Thursday
Bagram:	<i>Isolated t-storms</i> H: 91F L: 64F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 64F
Kandahar:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 104F L: 72F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 106F L: 72F
Kabul:	<i>Isolated t-storms</i> H: 90F L: 57F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Sunny</i> H: 102F L: 62F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 102F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

Basketball & Hockey (Compiled from ESPN.com)



The delay of the Hawks' sale gives the Clips a chance at Dunleavy.

Dunleavy is Clippers' primary target

ESPN — Mike Dunleavy interviewed with Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald T. Sterling over the weekend, league sources told ESPN.com, to underline Dunleavy's status as the Clippers' top coaching candidate.

Friday's meeting was Dunleavy's second interview with the Clippers, and made Dunleavy the first coach to meet face-to-face with Sterling. Clippers general manager Elgin Baylor, who conducted Dunleavy's first interview, previously interviewed ex-Detroit coach Rick Carlisle at the recent pre-draft camp in Chicago. Clippers interim coach Dennis Johnson has also re-interviewed with the club in hopes of retaining the job.

The Clippers declined comment Monday. Dunleavy could not be reached.

It remains to be seen how much Sterling would be willing to pay Dunleavy. Alvin Gentry was making one of the league's lowest coaching salaries, at \$1.5 million, when he was fired March 3 and replaced by Johnson. Finances are one factor that made a Clippers/Carlisle pairing a long shot from the start and the factor that gives Johnson a decent shot to be hired full-time.

Dunleavy, according to sources, has nonetheless expressed strong interest in the Clippers' job after missing out on the Houston job he wanted so badly. Dunleavy, an ex-Rocket, was beaten out by Jeff Van Gundy.

Games draw 6.5, topping 1981 Finals

NEW YORK — The final ratings for the NBA Finals between San Antonio and New Jersey were the lowest since the Nielsen ratings service began using the current method 27 years ago.

The six games, all aired in prime time on ABC, drew a 6.5 with a 12 share.

The previous low came in 1981, when Boston and Houston drew a 6.7 rating, said Nielsen spokeswoman Barbara Sudowski. This year's highest mark came in Game 6, when the Spurs won the series.

By contrast, last year's finals, between the Los Angeles Lakers

and the Nets, had a 10.2 rating on NBC even though it went four games and was less competitive. That series, however, featured two of the game's biggest stars — the Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Star power appears to be a factor — one of the highest-rated games ever was Michael Jordan's final game for Chicago against Utah in 1998. It drew a rating of 18.7, more than three times the overall rating for this year's series.

The Nets-Spurs series also was a defensive struggle with long scoring droughts and low shooting percentages by both teams.

The rating is the percentage of all homes with TVs, whether they are in use. The share is the percentage of sets in use tuned to a particular program.

Texans senior VP jumps to Portland

HOUSTON — The senior vice president of the Houston Texans is set to become the president of the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday, a Houston television station reported Tuesday.

KRIV-TV reported that Steve Patterson, who most recently worked for the Texans but spent nine years with the Houston Rockets as the team's general manager and general counsel and built most of the pieces of the franchise's NBA titles in 1994 and 1995, was on his way to Portland on Tuesday for Wednesday's announcement.

Patterson could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

"I can't confirm that right now," Texans spokesman Tony Wyllie told The Associated Press Tuesday. "We will have a statement at the appropriate time."

Reached at his Houston home by The Oregonian newspaper of Portland, Ore., Patterson would say only: "Where they are right now, if anyone is going to comment, it ought to be the Blazers."

The newspaper also reached a spokesman for the Texans, who said: "To be honest, we don't really have any comment until everything is official. Our comment is we're not going to comment until an announcement is made."

10 things to remember about 2002-03

ESPN — As we all begin our three-and-a-half month break until the start of another NHL season, here are 10 things I will take away from this season in no particular order.

1. Jean-Sebastien Giguere. There are some people who I just like to listen to. Giguere has that quality. He's a man of action who is a great talker. The words he chooses, how he arranges them, his thoughts and how he times them are more impressive to me than his save percentage.

2. The Collective Bargaining Agreement. I could fill a Hefty



Jean-Sebastien Giguere isn't just another good goalie.

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Trash Bag with vomit every time I hear those four words. When I think of a union, I think of workers who need a body of support and protection from immoral corporations.

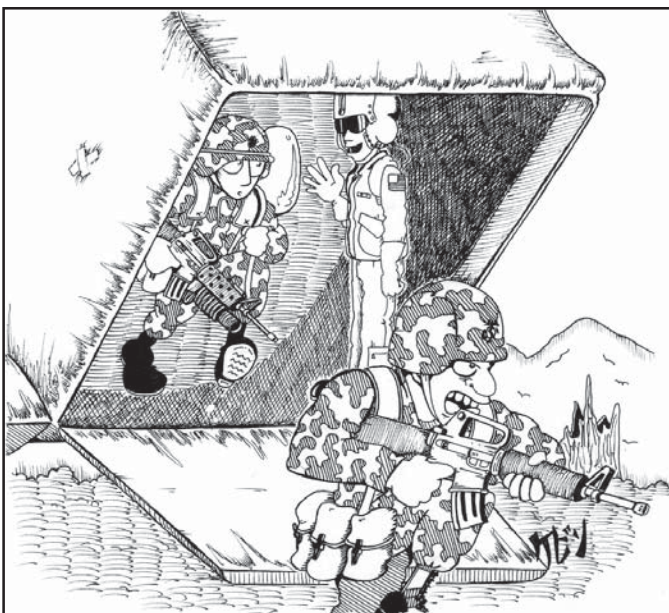
3. Rule Changes. I get so many suggestions and opinions on rule changes that two things come to mind off the bat. 1) People love this game. 2) If so many people have so many suggestions so much of the time, there must be something wrong.

4. Shootouts. I am pro-otter, pro V1, pro-ibuprofen and pro shootout. Anyone who saw the All-Star Game loved the shootout.

5. Scott Niedermayer. World class. When I lay in bed thinking about the Stanley Cup final it all comes back to watching No. 27 skate.

6. Vancouver Canucks. The team made gobs of money this year.

"Thank you for choosing Marine Air, please fly with us again."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

The players won awards and notoriety. And a city went nuts over its exciting, sexy hockey team.

7. Minnesota Wild. Minnesota is the center of hockey in the United States. When the North Stars left for Dallas, you have to wonder why nearly every NHL team didn't pack up and leave for Minnesota right away.

8. San Jose Sharks. What a difference a year makes. I wasn't sold on all the Stanley Cup talk surrounding this team, but what a nice group they had.

9. Darren Pang. I love Panger. One of my favorite Panger moments is to going to Denny's after an NHL 2Night in 2002 and writing down our Olympic rosters on the placemat at 2 a.m. Panger talks hockey and thinks hockey all the time.

10. This year's draft class. The game is changing. If there is lockout it's goodbye Forsberg, Sakic, Naslund, Yzerman, Messier, Francis, Lemieux, Hull, Lidstrom, Modano, Chelios, just to name a few.

LeClair latest trade target?

ESPN — Two tumultuous transactions, downplayed as they were in recent weeks, are indicative of the extent the Philadelphia Flyers will go to this summer to bring about a sense of change in the wake of another playoff failure.

Not that there's anything new about that.

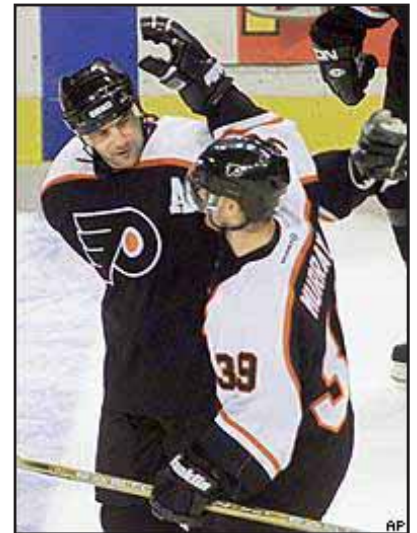
Yet it's a major move that has yet to happen which could really alter the face of the Flyers as they prepare, along with everyone else, for a looming NHL labor war.

Could there be a more drastic way to change the identity of the Flyers than to trade John LeClair?

"I'm not gonna talk about it," LeClair said in a recent interview regarding rumors that he is not only being shopped, but was trying to expedite the process by waiving the no-trade clause in his contract. "Things will be worked out in the next couple of weeks. We'll see what happens then."

It's been about a week since he said that, and so far nothing has happened. As recently as Friday, Flyers president/general manager Bob Clarke acknowledged that while "a few teams" had inquired about the winger's availability, the team wasn't close to trading its long-time icon.

Then again, as a couple of other fast flip-flop moves would indicate, you never quite know what Clarke is going to do next.



John LeClair has registered 558 points in 574 games with the Flyers.